

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 /078 W

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P R 031244Z JUL 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6282

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: LEFT OPPOSITION ISSUES STATEMENT

1. ON JULY 2, IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE POLITICAL PULSE-TAKING WHICH HAS FOLLOWED ARIAS' REMOVAL, THIRTY-TWO OPPOSITION NOTABLES, INCLUDING LEADERS OF ALL MAJOR DEMOCRATIC GROUPINGS AND THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE), ISSUED A STATEMENT ATTACKING THE OLD GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPTS AT REFORM FROM ABOVE AND CALLING FOR POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN THE REFORM PROCESS. EXCERPTS FROM THE COMMUNIQUE, NOW OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS THOUGH IT REFLECTS THE OPPOSITION

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VIEW ON WHAT SHOULD BE THE POLITICAL PROCESS, INCLUDE:

2. "WE ARE COMPELLED TO DENOUNCE BEFORE THE COUNTRY THE SO-CALLED CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND THE ANNOUNCED REFERENDUM, WHICH ARE NOTHING BUT A POLITICAL MASQUERADE. WE DENOUNCE THE REFORMS BECAUSE THEY ARE BEING IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE FULL AND FREE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE. WE DENOUNCE THE REFERENDUM BECAUSE IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A MECHANISM FOR OBTAINING POPULAR APPROVAL FOR A UNILATERAL AND ANTIDEMOCRATIC REFORM."

3. A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE IS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH: (1) FULL AND COMPLETE AMNESTY FOR ALL THOSE IN PRISON OR EXILE FOR POLITICAL REASONS; (2) EFFECTIVE GUARANTEES FOR THE EXERCISE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND FULL FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PARTIES; AND (3) THE FORMATION OF A TRULY REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL INITIATE, WITHOUT DELAY, THE "PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO A TRUE DEMOCRACY."

4. COMMENT: THIS COMMUNIQUE, WHICH HAD BEEN CIRULATING QUIETLY WITHIN THE OPPOSITION FOR ABOUT A MONTH, WAS DRAFTED PRINCIPALLY BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FIGURE FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ IN AN ATTEMPT TO PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT WITH A UNIFIED OPPOSITION POSITION ON REFORM. THE STATEMENT, BY ATTRACTING THE SIGNATURES OF MOST OF THE "WHO'S WHO" OF THE OPPOSITION, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE PLATA JUNTA, CLEARLY IS A SUCCESS IN THIS REGARD (SANTIAGO CARRILLO'S NAME IS MISSING, APPARENTLY BECUASE HE IS NOT PRESENT IN SPAIN; SIGNIFICANTLY, MANUEL AZCARATE SIGNED FOR THE PCE).

5. THERE WERE INDICATIONS SHORTLY BEFORE ARIAS' RESIGNATION THAT THIS COMMUNIQUE WAS ABOUT TO SURFACE, AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN RUSHED INTO PRINT IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE ORIENTATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE STATEMENT IS BASICALLY ANOTHER REITERATION OF THE LEFT OPPOSITION'S LONG-HELD POSITION ON REFORM, BUT THE RELATIVE MODERATION OF ITS PROPOSAL AND THE FAIRLY BROAD OPPOSITION CONSENSUS ON ITS WORDING GAVE IT WIDE PRESS PLAY. THE OPPOSITION'S CONTINUING CRITICISM OF THE REFORM PROCESS GENERALLY AND OF THE OCTOBER REFERENC- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DUM IN PARTICULAR ALMOST CERTAINLY HAD A BEARING ON THE DECISION TO REPLACE ARIAS.
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